

## May 25, 2016

Dear Band Members and Families,

Greetings! I hope that all of you have big plans for your summer. The Hayfield Band is preparing for a year of great expectations. This letter contains most of the information you will need for summer band activities, plus some important dates in August. Please read it carefully and mark your calendars now.

<b>August 15 – 19</b>	Marching Band Pre-Band Clinic - 5pm until 8pm (each evening)
<b>August 22 – 26</b>	Marching Band Clinic (day sessions) 9am until 5pm (each day)
<b>August 29 - Sep 1</b>	Marching Band Clinic (evening sessions) 5pm until 8pm (each day)
<b>September 2</b>	Marching Band Orientation 7am

**All** Marching Band students will be expected to attend all pre-band clinic and band clinic rehearsals. Parents are asked not to schedule appointments during these times. In addition to rehearsing the show we will also be sizing students for their uniforms, taking the official Marching Band picture, and sizing students and placing orders for marching shoes.

The Band Boosters will be holding a “**New Band Parent Coffee**” on **Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. Parents of band students who are new to high school band, or new to our program, are highly encouraged to attend. Veteran band parents will discuss the program’s policies and schedules, and you will have an opportunity to have your questions answered. I highly encourage all new parents to attend.

The Fairfax County Public School system has limited budget when it comes to instrumental music programs and the budget falls far short of our needs. We are therefore assessing a fee for our program which is required of all Marching Band students. This fee covers consumable items/expenses for the marching bands/ensemble. Examples of these items include uniform, uniform accessories, maintenance, instrument accessories, music, drill, food for instructional trips, etc. Any remaining collected fees will be allocated to a uniform replacement fund.

The required marching band fee for 2016-2017 is **\$125**. **If you wish to pay by check, you can pay now. If you wish to pay using “School Pay” through your “Charms” account, you may pay after July 1, 2016. Please go to the band website for information on “Charms”.**

**The fee of \$125 is due on or before July 1, 2016. Makes checks to Hayfield Secondary School.**

In addition to the band assessment, you will need to bring the **SIX ATTACHED FORMS BY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**. Please have them completely filled out and have all signatures by a parent or guardian.

- 1. Emergency Care Forms (please provide all health insurance info)**
- 2. Field Trip Permission**
- 3. Luggage Search Consent**
- 4. Uniform Contract**
- 5. Band Booster Form**
- 6. Band Booster Volunteer Form**

Band clinic students should wear cool, comfortable clothing, tennis shoes & socks. Please bring **sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat, if desired**. We cannot be slowed by blisters and sunburn. Bring a bag lunch and/or money for a soft drink, if desired. Have your instrument in perfect playing condition before the start of Band Clinic. This includes pads, reeds (plenty of them), valves, slides, corks, etc. Get problems fixed now to avoid problems later.

We will be performing at all home games and away games. Rehearsals will be on Fridays during the fall. For those in the top band, I am tentatively scheduling two competitions, which will be on Saturdays in the fall and a Halloween parade in a local community. Any other parades or civic events we consider worthwhile will be announced two weeks in advance. All performances will be service, educationally and philosophically based. **Please be flexible.**

Finally, as you know, excellence does not come easily. To be a successful band takes work and determination. We have won and we have lost and winning is a **lot** more fun. The only way we can be recognized for our efforts, especially in an area as competitive as this one, is to out-work, out-push and out-want everyone else. I am every bit as excited about the potential of this band as you are. Let's make the 2016-17 Marching Band Season one our best yet!!

Sincerely,

Patrick Burke

Director of Bands, Hayfield Secondary School, 703-924-2180, patrick.burke@fcps.edu